

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2009
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB246

Hearing Date: Friday January 30, 2009
Committee On: Natural Resources
Introducer: Dubas
One Liner: Reestablish the Biopower Steering Committee and provide for a strategic biotechnology plan

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Carlson, Cook, Dubas, Fischer, Haar, Langemeier, McCoy, Schilz

Nay:

Absent:

Present Not Voting:

Proponents:

Senator Annette Dubas
Michael Ott
Jim McClurg
James Milliken
Mary Harding
Paul Plofchan
Robert Byrnes
Ken Winston
Todd Sneller
Loran Schmit

Representing:

Introducer
BIOWA
Bionebraska
University of Nebraska
League of Conservation Voters
Pfizer, Inc.
NeRea, NRES
Nebraska Sierra Club
Nebraska Ethanol Board
Association of Nebraska Ethanol Producers

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 246 would reestablish and provide new duties to the Biopower Steering Committee.

Section 1 amends Section 66-1701, relating to the Biopower Steering Committee, by providing for new duties that the committee is to perform. New language requires a baseline study on the impact of the bioindustry and the creation of a strategic plan for its development.

The study is to: (1) contain a baseline analysis to quantify Nebraska's production and workforce capacity related to biotechnology (to include funding, research and development prospects); (2) propose a five-year development plan relating to the production of valuable corn products, second generation cellulosic technologies, bioplastics, and advanced biofuels; (3) establish baseline projections for the market and possible exportation of renewable products; (4) determine job growth and the economic impact, including the effect on unemployment, to the state from expanding the bioeconomy.

Further provides definitions of bioeconomy, bioindustry, and biotechnology; requires appointment of a pharmacological industry representative on the committee, rather than a Game and Parks representative; and requires the committee to report to the Natural Resources Committee by December 1, 2010, and annually thereafter.

The bill calls for a General Fund appropriation of \$200,000 for FY2009-10 to the Biopower Development Cash Fund.

The committee is to terminate on December 31, 2012.

Section 2 repeals the original section.

Explanation of amendments:

AM 749 replaces the bill and does the following:

AM 749 creates new language stating legislative findings/intent regarding the importance of biotechnology and the role it plays in the economic well-being of the state. The amendment also:

- * Requires the Natural Resources Committee to develop a statewide strategic biotechnology plan.
- * Requires the Natural Resources Committee to commission a Nebraska nonprofit corporation, with an interest in biotechnology, to work with the committee on the plan and to agree to provide \$100,000 for research on the plan.
- * Requires presentation of the nonprofit's work to the committee by June 30, 2010, and then the committee's plan to the full Legislature.
- * Creates the Biotechnology Development Cash Fund, states legislative intent to appropriate \$100,000 to the fund for FY 2009-10.
- * Defines biotechnology and biotechnology economy, and repeals the original section

Chris Langemeier, Chairperson